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December 13, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street Southwest  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

There are children – right here in Connecticut, in your state and every corner of our country – who are doing their homework at fast food restaurants, and outside of closed public libraries, because internet access is unavailable at home. We in Connecticut are fighting to close this shameful digital divide because the internet is no longer a luxury – it is an essential gateway to educational and economic opportunities.

The proposed repeal of net neutrality not only sets back the fight against education and income gaps, but threatens to deepen this divide. I urge the Commission to preserve existing net neutrality rules and reject this proposed repeal.

A fair and open internet is critical to a fair and open society.

The people of Connecticut, and throughout the country, depend on government institutions to protect their rights and ensure a level playing field. This proposed action punishes consumers, innovators, small businesses and entrepreneurs and bestows unchecked authority on incumbent internet service providers — some of the largest corporations in America — to choose what their customers can and cannot access on the internet, at what speed and at what cost.

This action is decidedly anti-consumer and betrays the free market principles that have led to the internet expanding educational, economic and social opportunities for all Americans.

We are at a critical point where we should be expanding broadband infrastructure, pushing for universal access to high-speed networks and encouraging true competition in the marketplace. This proposed action is contrary to those efforts and is destined to hold down the true potential of the internet as a tool for good.

Sincerely,



Kevin Lembo  
Connecticut State Comptroller